



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
VEHICLE ACCESS SPECIAL USE PERMIT
Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve (Mokulē'ia)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who needs the permit?

Anyone who wants to drive a “vehicle” into Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē'ia Section, beyond the paved road and parking lot. The gate at the end of the paved road is locked and only those with permitted vehicles are given the combination to the lock. Those hiking or riding a bicycle into the area do not need a permit.

Who is eligible for a permit?

Anyone with a valid driver's license (including an out of State license) who is 18 years of age or older may apply for a permit.

What “vehicles” need a permit?

For the purpose of this permit, a “vehicle” means any licensed, motorized vehicle including, but not limited to, four-wheel drive automobiles, trucks, and vans or motorcycles, motor bikes, mopeds, scooters, and trail bikes.

When is a permit needed?

A permit is needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a weeks for any vehicle entering the controlled vehicle access area. This permitting system with a locked gate has been in place since December 2014.

Where is the permit required?

The permit is for vehicle access to that portion of Ka'ena Point State Park Reserve, Mokulē'ia, beyond the paved road. A map of this area is included with each issued permit. The permit and permit conditions, including possession of permissible overnight gear, only apply to this area. They do not apply to:

- The other portions of Ka'ena Point State Park;
- The Natural Area Reserve (beyond the boulder barrier);
- The Keawa'ula (Yokohama Bay) portion of Ka'ena Point;
- Any other State Park where vehicle access is limited.

Where can a permitted vehicle go?

Once past the gate, vehicles must stay on designated roads and parking areas. A map of all designated roads and parking areas is included with each issued permit. Designated roads and parking areas are marked with brightly-colored, flexible survey markers (whiskers) or boulder alignments to distinguish them from off-road vehicle tracks and non-designated routes where needed. Directional signs are posted at appropriate junctions.

How much does the permit cost?

Nothing. The permit is free.

How do I get a free 2016 vehicular access permit?

Listed below are two different ways anyone can apply for a permit. Note that the time for receiving an approved permit and decal differs with each opportunity.

(a) Apply online at: <https://sup.s.ehawaii.gov>. Applicants are prompted to create a free eHawaii.gov account at the start of the application process. Some may already have an ehawaii.gov account if they access other government services through ehawaii.gov. A video tutorial on how to apply online is available at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/oahu/kaena-point-state-park/>. Note it may take up to **5 working days** to process and then mail the approved permit and decal. Please allow several days for mail delivery.

(b) Apply for a permit in person at the State Parks office during normal working hours (1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm. 310; 8:00 am to 3:15 pm). The permit is issued at that time. Please have all necessary information available. This office is in the Kalanimoku Building on the corner of Beretania and Punchbowl Streets. Public parking is in the basement.

What information do I need for the permit application?

Applicants need the following information:

- A valid driver's license
- Vehicle information (make, model and license plate)
- Contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, email address, emergency contacts)
- Additional driver's information (names, driver's license number, phone number) if this option is selected.
- Emergency contact information (name of contact, phone number of that individual)

Can someone else apply for the permit for me?

It is not advisable to have others submit applications on your behalf. Applying in person or on your own behalf ensures that all information needed is available and accurate.

If a person, such as family or close friends, applies for a permit on your behalf at the State Parks office, they should have a copy of your valid driver's license to verify you are a licensed driver. Individuals listed as additional drivers do not need to be present nor are copies of their driver's licenses needed.

If someone submits an application on your behalf electronically, you are responsible for all permit conditions and actions taken within the State Park Reserve involving the use of your vehicle. Permits may be revoked if permit conditions are not followed.

What does the permit include?

The permit holder receives a copy of the permit signed by the State Parks Administrator and by the applicant via an electric signature confirming acceptance of the application and issuance of the permit. By signing electronically, the applicant verifies that he or she has read and understands all attached permit conditions.

The permit includes the following:

- Conditions and rules applying to this Special Use Permit;
- Instructions on obtaining the combination to the locked gate;
- Maps depicting the designated roads and parking areas;
- Decal with your permit number to be placed in a visible location on your back bumper or a comparable location visible from the rear of your vehicle.

How do I get the combination to the locked gate?

Only valid permit holders have access to the lock combination. The combination may be retrieved 24 hours a day via the online site at <https://supps.ehawaii.gov>. A video tutorial on how to access the combination online is available at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/oahu/kaena-point-state-park/>. Permit holders without access to the internet may call State Parks office for the combination at (808) 587-0300 during normal working hours. Callers will be asked their name and permit number for verification.

When is the combination on the lock changed?

The combination is changed on Wednesday morning by 9:00 am. The new weekly combination is available online each Wednesday at 12:00 am.

Permit holders planning to be within the controlled vehicle access area beginning on Tuesday and exiting on Wednesday or Thursday, can request the Wednesday combination by calling the State Parks office at (808) 587-0300 between 8:00 pm to 3:15 pm.

How long does the permit last?

The permit is valid for a calendar year from January 1 through December 31. Applications for the following year will be accepted and processed starting in December. Permit holders who applied for their permits online in December 2016 can renew the permit for 2017 without reentering required information. Information submitted by the applicant can be updated at any time online.

How do I open the lock on the Ka'ena gate?

The four digit combination lock on the Ka'ena gate is located in a bell housing. The weekly combination is only available to valid permit holders. A view port cut into the top of the bell housing allows users to easily see the combination numbers on the bottom of the lock. To open, grab a hold of the lock from under the bell housing and raise the base of the lock to the view port so that the numbers can easily be seen and numbers arranged to the current combination. After entering the 4 digits, push the lock away from you and then pull it towards you to open the lock and remove it from the bell housing to open the gate. After passing through the gate, it is important to close the gate behind you, scramble the combination numbers, replace the lock into the bell housing, and re-lock the gate. Do not leave the gate unlocked.

If I have a valid permit, will I always be able to enter the gate at Ka'ena?

The gate is locked every day for 24 hours a day. With a valid combination, you can enter the gate at any time on any day. An exception would be if the DLNR deems the area unsafe or if there is an emergency. Recent closures occurred during hurricane and tropical storm warnings. If the area is closed, State Parks will attempt to notify permit holders.

Where should the permit decal be placed?

The decal must be in a visible location on the back bumper or a comparable location visible from the rear of the vehicle.

Does this mean that there will be more enforcement at Ka'ena Point?

A permitting system is a management tool that can aid the enforcement of rules and laws. If permit holders conduct illegal activities while in the area, in addition to receiving other penalties, their permit may be revoked and they will not have access to the gate combination. Those entering without a permit may be subject to penalties and may not be eligible for a permit in the future.

How can DLNR enforcement officers tell if I have a valid permit or if I just asked someone for the gate combination?

When vehicle access permits are issued, the permit holder receives a decal for the vehicle used at Ka'ena as identified on the permit application. By placing the decal in a visible location on the back bumper or a comparable location visible from the rear of your vehicle, enforcement officers can easily see if a vehicle is permitted without having to bother permit holders. The decal number is the same as the permit number.

Why is the gate locked and why are permits being required?

DLNR cares for and is mandated to protect the natural and cultural resources of the area. Increased use over the past 20 years resulted in substantial degradation of these resources and created a complex network of dirt roads and tracks. For several years, the community-selected Ka'ena Point Advisory Committee along with the DLNR Ka'ena Point Stewardship Team, met to discuss management options and develop an action plan to protect the area. The resulting action plan called for several management actions including implementation of a vehicular access permit system. In 2011 and 2012, DLNR installed signs designating the upper road and shoreline access roads in the State Park Reserve and encouraged voluntary compliance, however, off road vehicle use continued to negatively impact the area. Starting in December 2014, DLNR implemented this permit system to stem the negative impact of off road vehicle use in accordance with the Board of Land and Natural Resources mandate. The Integrated Ka'ena Point Action Plan can be found here: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/files/2013/09/Kaena-Final-Action-Plan.pdf>

Other Considerations

The special conditions for this permit expand the types of equipment people are permitted to have when using the area. Tents are prohibited but those with valid permits are allowed to have a portable canopy with one or two sides, coolers, cooking stoves, lamps, cots, mattresses, sleeping bags, and chairs.

The permit is intended to increase accountability for behavior in the area and make it safer for all users.

The permit is a way to ensure that all drivers receive accurate information about the area. Special conditions, rules, and maps are provided with each permit. People driving in the area can no longer claim that they didn't know the rules.

The permit does not restrict pedestrian access so it does not infringe on native Hawaiian gathering rights or other uses of the State Parks Reserve.